

cruise in the Mediterranean, and kindly presented by him to the British Museum, there is a remarkable new species of *Zootoca*, which he found inhabiting in great numbers a very small island (Ayre Island) on the south-east of Minorea. I have named it, after its discoverer, *Zootoca Lilfordi*; its distinguishing characters are as follows:—

All the upper parts deep shining black, lower parts of a beautiful sapphire-blue. Back and sides covered with minute, round, granular scales, of which there are between 90 and 100 in one of the transverse series in the middle of the length of the trunk. Ventral shields in six longitudinal and twenty-seven or twenty-eight transverse series. Collar very distinct. Gular scales much larger than those of the body, and slightly larger than those on the temples. Temporal scales uniformly granular, with the exception of a large central scute. Scutellation of the head otherwise similar to that of *Z. muralis*.

The largest of four examples is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, of which the tail takes $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

To this species I refer also the lizard which is so common on the Filfola Rock, a very small island south of Malta. Structurally there is no difference between them; but the Filfola race, instead of being uniform black above, has the back and sides ornamented with small bluish-green specks, and the lower parts are bluish black. It appears also to attain to a larger size, viz. $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the tail takes $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The occurrence on these small islands of a black representative of the continental *Zootoca muralis* is a remarkable fact, which deserves attention inasmuch as it is in accordance with other instances of a race having assumed a deep black coloration when confined to a small island—for example, *Coronella phocarum* from Robben Island.

XXIII.—*On the Identity of Esox Lewini with the Dinolestes Mülleri of Klunzinger.* By THEODORE GILL.

IN the tenth volume ("the class Pisces") of the 'Animal Kingdom' of Cuvier, edited by Edward Griffith (1834), are

a figure (pl. 60) and a brief notice (p. 465) of a fish which has long been a puzzle to me. It is called *Esox Lewini*, and only noticed as follows:—"Our figure of *Esox Lewini* is from a drawing by Mr. Lewin, made in New Holland, of a species not hitherto noticed." It was very evident that the species thus named belonged neither to the genus *Esox* nor anywhere near it; and (1) the relations of the fins, (2) the position of the ventrals with a spine and five rays each, (3) the form of the head, and (4) the teeth indicated for its affinity to *Chilodipterus* and allied forms; but no first dorsal fin was represented. The question then arose whether that fin had been atrophied (as in *Aspidophoroides*, *Gobiopus*, &c.) or (as was more likely) had been overlooked. After nearly forty years the species has been recovered, and, singularly enough, after having escaped the observation of the numerous collectors in the Australasian seas for so long a time*, has in the same year been obtained and described by three different naturalists under as many names, viz. *Dinolestes Mülleri* by Klunzinger, *Neosphyraena multiradiata* by Castelnau, and *Lanioperca mordax* by Günther. There can be no question about at least the generic identity of the *Esox Lewini* with the fishes described by the three contemporaries; and it now appears that the first dorsal fin exists, but is quite small, and sustained by only four or five spines. Klunzinger and Castelnau refer the type to the family Sphyraenidae, and Günther (with more justification, I think) to the "Apononina," i. e. Chilodipteridae. Whether the name *Dinolestes Lewini* should be now given, in view of the absence of a description (although supplied by a figure), is questionable; but in any event the synonymy referable to this type will stand as follows:—

1. *Esox Lewini* (Griffith?), Cuvier's Animal Kingdom, Griffith ed. x. p. 465, pl. 60 (1834).
2. *Dinolestes Mülleri*, Klunzinger, Archiv für Nat. 38. Jahrg. i. p. 30 (1872). Hobson Bay, South Australia.
3. *Neosphyraena multiradiata*, Castelnau, Proc. Zool. and Acclim. Soc. Victoria, i. p. 96 (1872). Melbourne.
4. *Lanioperca mordax*, Günther, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 4, x. p. 183 (September 1872). Tasmania.

* It is said, however, by Castelnau to be "common [at Melbourne] in the months of May, June, and July; it attains 2 feet in length. The fishermen call it 'Skip Jack;' but that name is more particularly applied to *Temnodon saltator*."